

Record of Decision
Hancock Field Air National Guard Base
Firing-In-Buttress (MRS SR002)



Hancock Field Air National Guard
Syracuse, New York

Final

January 2021

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°F	Degree Fahrenheit
µg/L	Microgram(s) per liter
AM	Action Memorandum
ANG	Air National Guard
ARAR	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement
bgs	Below ground surface
CA	Cost Analysis
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COPC	Constituent of Potential Concern
CSE	Comprehensive Site Evaluation
EA	EA Engineering, P.C. and its affiliate EA Science and Technology
EE	Engineering Evaluation
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FIB	Firing-in-Buttress
ft	Foot (feet)
HEAT	High Explosive Anti-Tank
ID	Identification
in.	Inch(es)
MC	Munitions Constituents
MD	Munitions Debris
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern
MFR	Memorandum for Record
mm	Millimeter(s)
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
MRA	Munitions Response Area
MRS	Munitions Response Site
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NFA	No Further Action
NYCCR	New York Codes, Rules and Regulations
NTCRA	Non-Time Critical Removal Action
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	New York State Department of Health
ROD	Record of Decision

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
SCO	Soil Cleanup Objective
SSFR	Site-Specific Final Report
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UE	Unrestricted Exposure
UU	Unlimited Use
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

1. DECLARATION

1.1 SITE NAME AND LOCATION

The Hancock Field Air National Guard Base (hereinafter referred to as Hancock Field) is located south of and adjacent to the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport, approximately 5 miles north of the City of Syracuse in Onondaga County, New York (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The Hancock Field Firing-in-Buttress (FIB) Munitions Response Site (MRS) SR002, encompasses approximately 0.1 acre of land and includes the FIB structure.

1.2 STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

This Record of Decision (ROD) presents the No Further Action (NFA) remedy selected by the Air National Guard (ANG) with concurrence from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The NFA remedy was chosen in accordance with the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs). ARARs are cleanup standards, standards of control and other substantive environmental protection requirements, criteria or limitations promulgated under federal or state law. The ARARs include certain requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, and to the extent practicable, certain requirements of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300. As per 40 CFR 300.800(a) of the NCP, the documentation supporting NFA is contained in the administrative record. This NFA ROD is also compliant with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program policies and guidance and consistent with the Division of Environmental Remediation-10, Technical Guidance for Site Investigation and Remediation (NYSDEC-DER 2010).

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

The ANG, in consultation with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), NYSDEC, and NYSDOH, has determined that no CERCLA monitoring, evaluation or remedial action is necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment from media associated with Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002.

1.4 STATUTORY DETERMINATIONS

The ANG, with concurrence from NYSDEC and NYSDOH, concluded that as a result of previous removal actions, NFA is necessary to protect public health or the environment from the surface water, stormwater/surface runoff, sediment, surface and subsurface soil, groundwater, soil gas, and indoor air associated with Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002. Because there are no hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) remaining at the site at concentrations exceeding levels that allow for Unlimited Use (UU)/Unrestricted Exposure (UE), 5-year reviews are not required. The public participation requirements of Section 117(a) of CERCLA and the NCP at 40 CFR § 300.430(f)(3) have been met.

If additional contamination or MEC hazards posing an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment is discovered after execution of this ROD, the ANG will undertake all necessary actions to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment.

1.5 DATA CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

The following information is included in the Decision Summary section of this Record of Decision. Additional information can be found in the Administrative Record file for this site.

Table 1 – Record of Decision Certification Checklist

Data	Location in the ROD
Chemicals of concern and their respective concentrations	Section 2.2.2
Baseline risk represented by the chemicals of concern	Section 2.7
Cleanup levels established for chemicals of concern and the basis for these levels	Section 2.2.2
How source materials constituting principal threats are addressed	Section 2.2.2
Current and reasonably anticipated future land use assumptions and current and potential future beneficial uses of ground water used in the baseline risk assessment and ROD	Section 2.6
Potential land and groundwater use that will be available at the site as a result of the selected remedy	Section 2.6
Estimated capital, annual operation and maintenance, and total present worth costs, discount rate, and the number of years over which the remedy cost estimates are projected	Section 2.4
Key factor(s) that led to selecting the remedy	Section 2.4

1.6 AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE

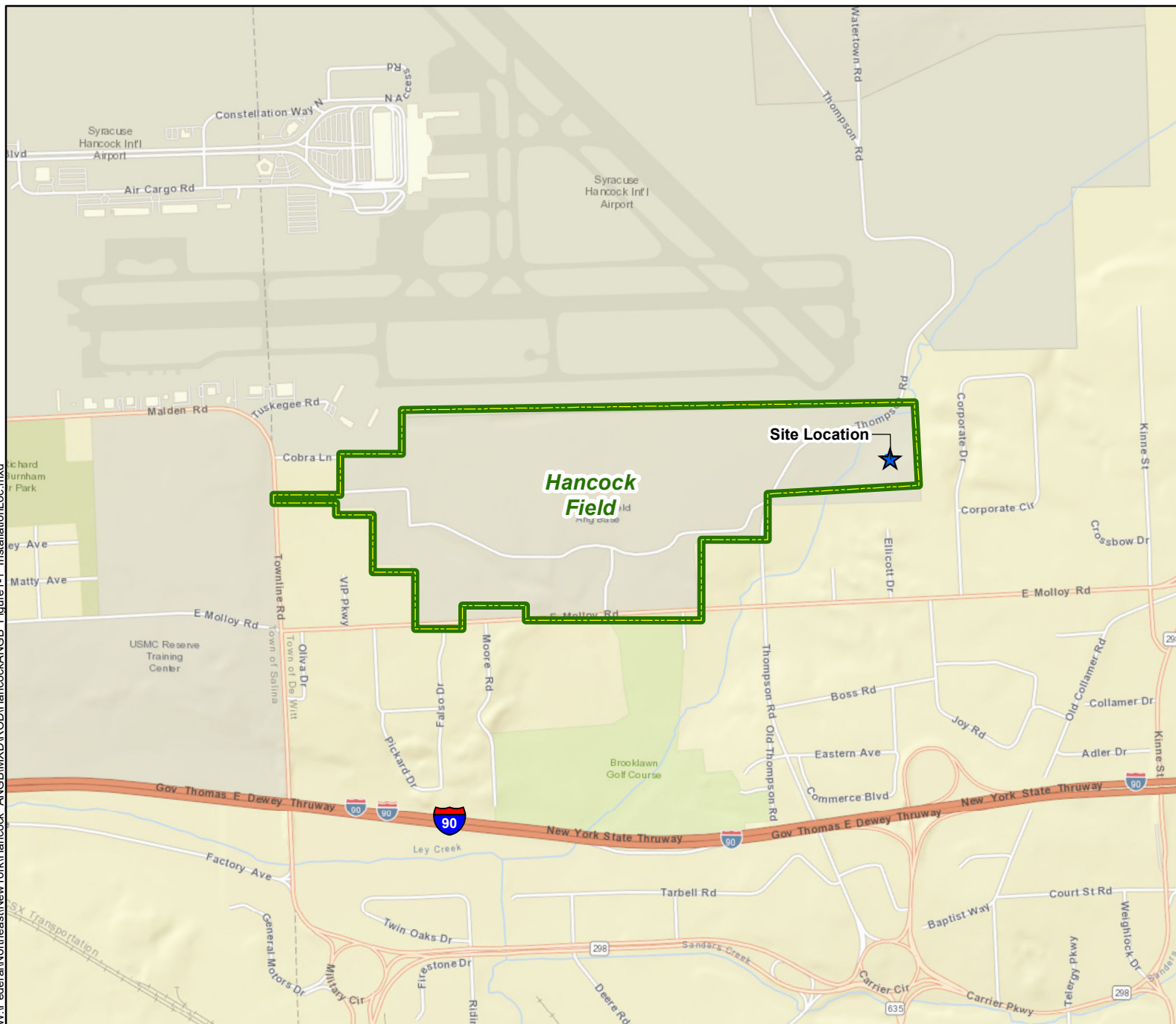
Elaine Magdinec, P.E., GS-15, DAF
Chief, Environmental Division, NGB/A4V

Date

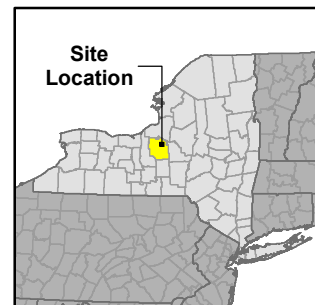
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

☒ Concur ☐ Non-Concur (please provide reason)


The NYSDEC has concurred with the NFA finding in this Final ROD for FIB, MRS SR002. The NYSDEC concurrence letter for the ROD is presented in Appendix A.



VICINITY MAP



Legend

 Installation Boundary

Data Sources:
ESRI 2012

Map Date: 2/17/2020

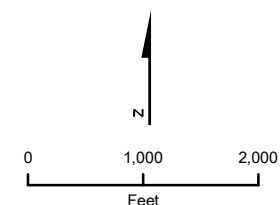
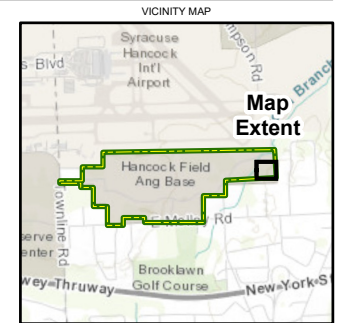


Figure 1
Installation Location
Hancock Field
Syracuse, New York



Legend

- Firing-In Butress Structure
- ▨ MRS SR002
- ▭ Installation Boundary

Data Sources:
Google Earth 2015

Map Date: 6/26/2020

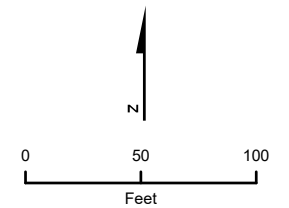


Figure 2
Firing-In-Butress
(MRS SR002)
Location Map
Hancock ANGB
Syracuse, New York

2. DECISION SUMMARY

2.1 SITE NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION

Hancock Field is located south of and adjacent to the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport, approximately 5 miles north of the City of Syracuse in Onondaga County, New York (Figure 1).

The installation currently encompasses approximately 357 acres and consists of several buildings and operational facilities. It is divided into two tracts of land: Tract II and Tract III. Tract III encompasses approximately 270 acres and includes the Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002. Both tracts are owned by the United States Air Force (fee-owned) with a license to New York State for ANG use. The City of Syracuse owns the land bordering Tract II and the land north of Tract III.

The Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002, encompasses approximately 0.1 acre of land (Figure 2) and includes the FIB structure and the soil contained within the structure. The structure is comprised of concrete with an interior and front face covered in wood timbers. The exterior is covered with grass sod and vegetation. The opening of the structure is approximately 15 feet (ft) high and 80 ft wide. The inside of the wooden structure contains the soil impact berm.

The intended use of the FIB was as a backstop and safety berm to clear jammed rounds from aircraft gun systems. It was also used by F-86 aircraft for test firings of gun systems and boresight alignment, which reportedly included the use of Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) of various caliber (up to 0.50-caliber). Based on the Munitions Debris (MD) observed in the FIB, aircraft may have also fired 20-millimeter (mm) target practice projectiles and 3.5-inch (in.) rockets. The FIB has been inactive since 1976.

2.2 SITE HISTORY AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

In 1942, Hancock Field, formerly Mattydale Bomber Base, was constructed along with three 5,500-ft runways. The facility was built to serve as a staging and storage area for repairing and re-outfitting B-17 and B-24 aircraft used in World War II. The Base was also used by the First Concentration Command, later known as the Air Service Command, to assemble and test B-24 aircraft. In 1946, the City of Syracuse took control of the Mattydale Bomber Base, and in 1948, the Base was dedicated as a commercial airfield. The Clarence E. Hancock Airport opened in September 1949, attaining international airport status in 1970. Over the last few decades, both the mission and physical size of the Hancock Field (military) installation have been reduced from the initial World War II capacity. Much of the airbase, including the runways, was converted to civilian use as the Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Currently, Hancock Field is home to the 174th Attack Wing of the New York ANG. The 174th began as the 138th Fighter Squadron on 28 October 1947. In 1962, the 138th was officially renamed the 147th Tactical Fighter Group. In 1979, there was a status change from Tactical Fighter Group to Tactical Fighter Wing. In 1992, the Tactical Fighter Wing was re-designated the 174th Fighter Wing. In 2012, the 174th Fighter Wing was renamed as the 174th Attack Wing. Aircraft historically utilized by the unit include the P-47D Thunderbolt, F-84B Thunderjet, F-86H Sabre, A-10A Thunderbolt II, and F-16A Fighting Falcon.

The installation's mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and to provide assistance during national emergencies (i.e., natural disasters or civil disturbances). During peacetime, the combat-ready and support units are assigned to most United States Air Force major commands to carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, and humanitarian and contingency operations. Mission-related activities include vehicle, aircraft, and runway maintenance; fueling operations; and military training operations.

Identification of potential MEC hazards and contamination delineation through previous investigations at the Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 constrained required munitions response actions to approximately 0.1 acre. The FIB was designated an MRS due to the presence of 20-mm projectiles and other MD, as well as Munitions Constituents (MC) including lead and copper. There was no evidence of MC releases that would warrant immediate action, but the potential for human health and ecological risks was identified and further action was deemed necessary.

2.2.1 Site Investigation Summary

In support of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) at Hancock Field, a Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE) Phase I was completed in 2009 to identify potential Munitions Response Areas (MRAs), evaluate actual or potential releases of MCs to the environment, and to evaluate associated targets of concern (Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc. and Shaw Environmental, Inc. 2009). The CSE Phase I investigated 10 potential MRAs at Hancock Field, including the FIB, MRS SR002. Based on the findings of the CSE Phase I, it was determined that there was no evidence of MC releases that would warrant immediate action. However, a potential for environmental impacts from MC at MRAs SR002 was identified. NFA or transfer to the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program was recommended for the remaining 8 MRAs. Also, a separate NFA determination was previously made for MRA SR001; therefore, MRA SR001 is not the subject of this ROD.

The CSE Phase I identified lead, copper, and iron as the primary MCs of concern at MRA SR002. Additionally, a 3.5 in. High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) M28A2 rocket was identified at the FIB, MRA SR002, which resulted in explosives being included as contaminants of concern. It was recommended that a CSE Phase II be conducted at MRA SR002 to assess the potential for environmental release of MC (Sky Research Inc. 2012).

Based on the recommendations from the CSE Phase I, a CSE Phase II was conducted for MRA SR002 in 2010. The objectives of the CSE Phase II were to determine whether releases of MC to the environment had occurred and determine if there was a need for an emergency response and/or whether other munitions response actions were necessary. The CSE Phase II activities were conducted between 8 and 17 September 2010, and included visual surveys, ex situ X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis of surface and subsurface soil, a human health risk assessment, and an ecological risk assessment.

Evidence of small arms use was observed during the visual inspection at SR002, including blank 5.56-mm casings, plastic small arms 5.56-mm magazine, and 0.50-caliber steel cores. In addition to the small arms identified during the visual inspection, 20-mm target practice MD and a rocket spacer were observed. Although the CSE Phase I identified explosives as a contaminant of concern

due to the identification of the 3.5 in. HEAT rocket, samples were not analyzed for explosives during the CSE Phase II because no other evidence of MEC was observed. The CSE Phase II indicated that significant evidence of MEC use was not identified during the visual survey and that the rocket found at the FIB did not constitute a significant enough source to warrant sampling. XRF samples were collected and analyzed for lead at MRA SR002, as detailed in the CSE Phase II report.

Based on the results of the CSE Phase II, MRA SR002 was divided into 2 MRSs. Further munitions response was recommended for approximately 0.1 acre, which returned exceedances of residential use soil screening levels for lead, designated as FIB, MRS SR002. It also recommended NFA for approximately 5.7 acres, designated as MRS SR002a. This ROD is for SR002 only, as SR002a is a separate MRS, which achieved site closure in 2013.

2.2.2 Removal Action Summary

A Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) to remove high lead and copper concentrations from soil in the FIB, MRS SR002 was completed between 16 June and 22 August 2014. Soils identified above the residential use standard of lead with concentrations exceeding 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and/or copper concentrations exceeding 270 mg/kg were excavated and sifted for MD prior to offsite disposal. At FIB, MRS SR002, 234 tons of soil were excavated, stabilized, and sifted for MD, prior to offsite disposal as non-hazardous waste. No MEC were identified during the NTCRA. MD recovered at FIB, MRS SR002 included approximately 600 pounds of M55A2 20-mm target practice projectiles and a ballistic nose cone from a 3.5 in. HEAT rocket. All MD discovered during the NTCRA was certified as material documented as safe and transported offsite for recycling.

Groundwater samples were collected from SR002 during the 2014 NTCRA, which indicated that groundwater has not been impacted by MCs. Total metals concentrations exceeded screening levels for iron only, which was attributed to high turbidity of samples, and dissolved metals concentrations were below screening levels for all analytes, as shown in Table 2, from the ANG 2016 NTCRA Site-Specific Final Report (SSFR) (ANG 2016). All monitoring wells associated with the site have been properly abandoned.

Upon completion of the NTCRA for lead in soil at the FIB, MRS SR002, the MEC hazard assessment tool was completed to assess the potential exposure hazard to MEC at the FIB, MRS SR002. The NTCRA Site-Specific Final Report for SR002 concluded that since no MEC were identified during the NTCRA, it confirmed historical conclusions that only small arms, M781 40-mm practice grenades, and 20-mm target practice projectiles were used at the MRSs (both determined to be inert). Therefore, there is no potential explosive hazard associated with MEC at the FIB, MRS SR002. Groundwater at FIB, MRS SR002 reported regulatory exceedances of total iron in 2 of the 4 samples collected (all other MCs were reported at concentrations below regulatory standards), which was attributed to the high turbidity observed in the wells. Dissolved MCs reported below regulatory criteria for all analytes in each sample.

Table 2 – 2016 SSFR Groundwater Sampling Results

Station ID: Sample ID: Date: Sample Depth (ft bgs): Sample Type:		SR2001 SR2-001 6/23/2014 15-20 Regular	SR2001 SR2-DUP01 6/23/2014 15-20 FD	SR2002 SR2-002 6/23/2014 15-20 Regular	SR2003 SR2-003 6/23/2014 7.5-12.5 Regular
Analyte	Regulatory Standard	Value/Q	Value/Q	Value/Q	Value/Q
Dissolved Metals (µg/L)					
Antimony	3 ^a	2.9	2.8	0.27 J	0.79 J
Arsenic	10 ^b	0.97 J	0.96 J	0.49 J	1.9
Copper	200 ^a	9.1	9.2	2.4	2.2
Iron	300 ^a	70 J	48 J	13	10 U
Lead	15 ^b	0.52J	0.53 J	0.17 J	0.50 U
Tin	9,300 ^b	2.8 J	2.8 J	1.1 J	1.2 J
Zinc	66 ^a	11	8.5 J	11	11
Total Metals (µg/L)					
Antimony	3 ^a	2.9	2.5	0.26 J	0.73 J
Arsenic	10 ^b	0.50 U	1	0.50 U	2
Copper	200 ^a	11	10	4.8	3.4
Iron	300 ^a	140 J	220 J	360	480
Lead	15 ^b	1.3	1.1	0.55 J	0.48
Tin	9,300 ^b	3 J	2.8 J	1.5 J	1.4 J
Zinc	66 ^a	19 J	9.5 J	18	15
<p>Bold cells indicate concentrations exceeding regulatory standards.</p> <p>^a Value obtained from 6 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR), Part 703: <i>Surface Water and Groundwater Quality Standards and Groundwater Effluent Limitations.</i></p> <p>^b Value obtained from EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, <i>List of Contaminants and their Maximum Contaminant Levels.</i></p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>µg/L = Microgram(s) per liter</p> <p>bgs = Below ground surface</p> <p>ft = Foot (feet) below ground surface</p> <p>EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>FD = Field duplicate</p> <p>ID = Identification</p> <p>Q = Analytical qualifier</p> <p>J – estimated result</p> <p>U – analyte concentration is less than the detection limit</p>					

A site visit, documented as a Memorandum for Record (MFR) dated 28 April 2015, was conducted by USACE-Omaha District to inspect the MRS and evaluate the potential of the MRS to contain MEC following completion of the 2014 NTCRA (Schneider, R.J. and Kochevko, J.A. 2015). During the site visit, it was confirmed that the soil inside the FIB structure contained 20-mm target practice projectiles and 0.50-caliber

projectiles. Based on the analog magnetometer survey conducted during the site visit, the MFR concluded that it is unlikely that an intact 3.5-in. rocket or warhead is present inside the FIB structure, and that the wooden structure can be expected to contain 20-mm target practice projectiles, 0.50-caliber projectiles, and fragmentation from 3.5-in. rockets. The MFR recommended the MRS be classified as a low probability site regarding the potential to encounter MEC.

An Engineering Evaluation (EE)/Cost Analysis (CA) (EA and USACE-Omaha District 2016) for Hancock Field was developed to identify the objectives of another removal action; evaluate the effectiveness, implementability, and cost of various alternatives that may satisfy these objectives; and identify the recommended action for the FIB, MRS SR002.

The removal action alternative recommended by the EE/CA, presented as Alternative 3, was an NTCRA to remove all debris associated with the FIB, MRS SR002. This recommendation was based on results of screening and detailed analysis of alternatives presented in the EE/CA. Although the MRS is considered industrial, the alternative allows for residential use.

Subsequent to the EE/CA, an Action Memorandum (AM) (ANG 2018) was developed to present the selected alternative for the FIB, MRS SR002 at Hancock Field. The purpose of the AM was to request and document approval of the selected NTCRA (removal of all debris associated with the FIB). The AM concluded that the conditions at Hancock Field meet the NCP criteria for an NTCRA and recommended the approval of an NTCRA.

A second NTCRA for the FIB, MRS SR002 was completed in April 2019. A surface inspection was conducted, and debris was removed over accessible areas of the FIB. Vegetation and soil were removed from the top and sides of the FIB structure exterior and stockpiled for characterization. Impact berm soil located within the FIB was removed and placed into a portable vibratory screen to sift out any MEC, MC or SAA. Debris that did not pass through the sifter was visually inspected by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Technicians. Subsequently, the wood lining of the FIB was inspected for embedded 20-mm target practice projectiles, which were removed by UXO Technicians using hand tools. A mag and dig operation followed, clearing detected magnetic subsurface anomalies from the FIB interior floor. Composite samples were collected from the FIB floor and from the excavated FIB soil after soil sifting was complete and analyzed for lead and copper (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SW-846 Method 6010B) as well as Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure metals to confirm soils are hazardous or non-hazardous, and soil from the floor of the FIB was screened using XRF. The FIB structure was demolished, and soil removed from the FIB was used to regrade and restore the site, as it met the Protection of Ecological Resources Standards (Table 3) which are lower than the Residential Use human and health standards. Field activities and results are detailed in the 2020 NTCRA SSFR (EA 2020a).

**Table 3 – 2020 SSFR Hancock Field FIB
(MRS SR002) Soil Sample MC Results Compared
to NYSDEC Ecological Criteria**

Sample ID	LEAD Result (mg/kg)	COPPER Result (mg/kg)
FIB-BASE-01	8.5	21
FIB-BASE-02	6.5	20
FIB-BASE-03	6.1	19
FIB-BASE-04	5.4	18
FIB-BASE-05	6.9	19
FIB-BASE-06	15	22
FIB-BASE-07	13	21
FIB-BASE-08	18	22
FIB-BASE-09	6.2	19
FIB-BASE-10	6.4	22
STOCKPILE 01	10	19
STOCKPILE 02	10	21
FIB-DUP-01	6.5	19
	Cleanup Objective	Cleanup Objective
NYSDEC - Restricted Use Soil Cleanup Objectives - Protection of Ecological Resources ¹	63	50
¹ From NYSDEC 6 NYCRR Part 375, Table 375-6.8(b): Restricted Use Soil Cleanup Objectives Notes: FIB = Firing-in-Buttress ID = Identification MC = Munitions constituents mg/kg = Milligram(s) per kilogram NYCRR = New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations NYSDEC = New York State Department of Environmental Conservation		

2.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to CERCLA Section 113(k)(2)(B)(i-v) and Section 117, the Proposed Plan for Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 was released to the public for comment on 22 October 2020, as detailed below (EA 2020b):

- **Newspaper Article**—The notice of availability of the Proposed Plan was published in The Post Standard on 22 October 2020 (Appendix B).

- **Public Meeting**—A 30-day public comment period was held from 23 October to 22 November 2020 along with the option for a public meeting if desired.

Consistent with requirements of CERCLA Section 113(k), an administrative record containing information associated with CERCLA cleanup activities at Hancock Field in association with FIB, MRS SR002 is available to the public. The locations of the Administrative Record file are as follows:

Air National Guard
Sheppard Hall
3501 Fetchet Avenue
Joint Base Andrews, MD
20762-5157

Onondaga County Public Library
Robert P. Kinchen Central Library
447 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY
13202
(315) 435-1900

The Administrative Record file can be accessed online as well, using the following steps.

1. Go to <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil>
2. Click on the Air National Guard radio button
3. Select “Hancock Field ANG Base, NY” in the “Installation List”
4. Click “Search”.

2.4 SCOPE AND ROLE OF RESPONSE ACTION

This ROD documents a remedial decision of NFA for Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002. The selected response action is the final action with regards to surface and subsurface soil associated with Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002. The western branch of Ley Creek is present at SR002, but surface water and sediment are not considered media of concern, as lead concentrations in soils proximal to the creek are below UU/UE standards. Groundwater is not considered a medium of concern, as sampling results from the 2014 NTCRA indicate that groundwater has not been impacted by MCs.

In conjunction with previous investigations and removal actions, the results of the NTCRA were assessed to determine that the site is no longer impacted by contaminants or MEC hazards. Based on the results of the Phase I and II CSE, the 2016 NTCRA SSFR, and the 2020 NTCRA SSFR, no unacceptable human health or ecological risk has been identified and Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 meets UU/UE criteria. It is, therefore, the ANG’s judgment that no further action is required to protect public health or welfare and the environment.

An NFA designation at FIB, MRS SR002, along with the NFA remedy selected for MRS SR001 in August 2016, effectively states that no further action is required at Hancock Field in regard to MMRP and environmental requirements related to MEC, MC, and MD formerly present or potentially present at the identified MRSs.

2.5 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The FIB has been inactive since 1976 and much of the airbase has been converted to civilian use as the Syracuse Hancock International Airport. The climate at Hancock Field is mild during summer and very cold during winter with abundant precipitation. Monthly mean high temperature ranges from 31 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in January to 82°F in July. Monthly mean low temperature ranges from 15°F in January to 60°F in July. Average annual precipitation is approximately 38.3 in. Annual mean snowfall is approximately 107.1 in.

Hancock Field is located within the Ontario-Mohawk Lowland Region of the Central Lowland Physiographic Province. This province has a relatively flat topography created by glacial erosion and deposition during the Wisconsin Glaciation. The installation is part of an area of flat lowlands situated between Lake Ontario and the Onondaga Escarpment in Syracuse, New York. Topography across the installation rises gradually from approximately 385 ft above mean sea level at the southeast end of the installation to approximately 425 ft above mean sea level at the west-northwest part of the installation.

Soils are composed of silts with varying amounts of clay and fine to medium sand. Specifically, soils within the wood structure at the FIB, MRS SR002 consist primarily of sandy soils. Subsurface soils beneath the berm consist of Ontario loam.

Hancock Field is located in an area of flat lowlands between Lake Ontario and the Onondaga Escarpment. Multiple layers underlie the Base, including unconsolidated lake sediments from 0 to 50 ft below ground surface (bgs), glacial till from 50 to 100 ft bgs, and sedimentary bedrock beneath the till. The lake sediments are composed of silts with varying amounts of clay and fine to medium sand. The glacial till is composed of gravel and large cobbles in a silty clay matrix. The sedimentary bedrock consists of shale and siltstone of the Vernon Formation. The lake sediments contain an unconfined, non-sole-source water table aquifer that is several feet bgs. Due to low yield resulting from low transmissivity, the aquifer is not a suitable source of potable water. A confined aquifer is found in the bedrock below the glacial till. The glacial till layer serves as a barrier to vertical groundwater migration between the overlying lake sediments and underlying sedimentary bedrock. There is a strong upward flow potential between the confined bedrock aquifer and the unconfined water table aquifer.

Groundwater may be encountered 3 ft bgs at the FIB, MRS SR002.

Hancock Field and its surrounding areas contain naturally occurring swamps and poorly drained areas. These natural lowlands and swamps have been drastically altered by development of this area into its current use as a transportation center and military facility. There are mapped wetlands located in the southern and eastern areas of the installation. In general, surface drainage near the FIB, MRS SR002 is south-southeast toward the North Branch of Ley Creek.

2.5.1 Current Nature and Extent of Contamination

The presence of MEC, MC, and SAA at the Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 was due to historical use for test firing of aircraft weaponry. Historical investigations and removal actions at the FIB have uncovered 20-mm and 0.50-caliber projectiles, and 3.5-in. rocket fragments in soil and

timber. No MEC was found during the 2019 NTCRA and no MC-related contamination is currently present in excess of UU/UE criteria at FIB, MRS SR002.

2.5.2 Conceptual Site Model

No MEC has been identified at MRS SR002. The CSE Phase II investigation and 2016 NTCRA SSFR report that onsite groundwater, surface water, and sediment have not been impacted by MCs, and MC soil concentrations reported in the 2020 NTCRA SSFR meet UU/UE criteria. Current site conditions support potential future residential use, and do not warrant further investigation of human health or ecological risk.

2.6 CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE LAND AND RESOURCE USES

Hancock Field, located in Onondaga County, is approximately 5 miles from downtown Syracuse, New York. Hancock Field is bordered on the north by airport property owned by the City of Syracuse, and to the east, south, and west by commercial/industrial developments. The Base is bordered to the south by East Malloy Road. Across East Malloy Road is the former Brooklawn golf course and several small commercial properties. There are approximately 600 persons per square mile in Onondaga County.

Currently, the FIB, MRS SR002 is vacant industrial land, approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport runway. The area immediately around the MRS is gently sloped with dense vegetation. The FIB structure was demolished in April 2019.

Future land use of MRS SR002 may include residential use.

2.7 SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS

An investigation of potential MEC and MC contamination at the FIB, MRS SR002 was completed during the CSE Phase I and II investigations. During the CSE Phase I, a 3.5-in. rocket (HEAT, M28A2) was found embedded in the FIB structure. During the CSE Phase II, survey teams observed MD consisting of one spacer from a 3.5-in. rocket (HEAT, M28A2) and 20-mm target practice debris in soil directly in front of the revetment. While sampling in the FIB revetment 0.50-caliber debris was also identified. Although 20-mm target practice projectiles (that contain no high explosives) were observed at the MRS, the FIB, MRS SR002 was historically used as a boresight range. It was determined unlikely that 20-mm high explosives were ever used at this MRS and would; therefore, not be present in the subsurface. During the MFR site visit, it was confirmed that soil inside the FIB structure contained 20-mm target practice projectiles and 0.50-caliber projectiles. It was determined unlikely that an intact 3.5-in. rocket or warhead is present inside the FIB structure, and that the wooden structure can be expected to contain 20-mm target practice projectiles, 0.50-caliber projectiles, and fragmentation from 3.5-in. rockets. Two NTCRA's have been performed to address MC and MD concerns at FIB, MRS SR002.

2.7.1 Human Health Risk Assessment

Concentrations of detected analytes in soil were screened against risk-based screening values to develop a list of human health Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) during the CSE Phase

I. Any analyte for which the maximum measured concentration exceeded the risk-based screening concentration was retained as a COPC. For soils, MC-related metals were compared to ecological criteria which is lower than the human health standard residential screening levels, and although unlikely based on historic range operations, MEC were identified as being potentially present in surface and subsurface soil or within the FIB structure due to the discovery of 3.5-in. rocket debris during previous investigations.

Based on risk-based screening concentrations, COPCs identified at Hancock Field in association with FIB, MRS SR002, prior to removal actions, included the following:

- MCs (i.e., lead and copper).

During the CSE Phase II, and later during the 2014 NTCRA, USACE site visit of SR002, and 2019 NTCRA, no MEC were identified on the surface of the impact berm. Therefore, surface MEC exposure pathways for all receptors, including construction workers, trespassers, and future residents, are incomplete. Based on the MD observed from the 3.5-in. rocket, subsurface MEC exposure pathways for the construction worker and a future resident were considered potentially complete and subsurface MEC exposure pathways are incomplete for a trespasser because a trespasser would not likely access the subsurface. A mag and dig operation conducted during the 2019 NTCRA utilized a handheld magnetometer to detect, investigate, and handle any magnetic anomaly within the FIB floor after excavation. No MEC were discovered in the subsurface soil and UXO Technicians covered 100 percent of the FIB floor, so MEC exposure pathways are considered incomplete for all potential current and future receptors.

During the 2014 NTCRA, soils impacted by munitions-related metals (i.e., lead and copper) were excavated from FIB, MRS SR002, and composite samples taken during the 2019 NTCRA were all below residential use standards. Because MC-impacted soils were excavated from the MRS, MC exposure pathways for all receptors are incomplete.

2.7.2 Ecological Risk Assessment

Analytical results for soil samples from the 2019 MMRP NTCRA were compared to New York Protection of Ecological Resources Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs), which are the screening levels used to assess ecological risk in the State of New York. All soil samples reported concentrations of lead and copper below Protection of Ecological Resources SCOs (Table 3). Due to this, further investigation of ecological risk is not warranted.

2.7.3 Risk Summary – Human Health and Ecological

The 2014 NTCRA addressed MC-impacted soils via removal and offsite disposal. Confirmation sampling results suggested that remaining soils were under residential use screening criteria; and therefore, no residual human health or ecological risks associated with MCs at FIB, MRS SR002 remain. Suspicion of MEC present at FIB, MRS SR002 was addressed in a second NTCRA in 2019 by clearing the FIB structure of MD in surface and subsurface soils, additional soil removal within the FIB, and demolition and removal of the FIB structure. Composite soil samples collected from the excavated soil and from the FIB floor did not exceed Residential Use or Protection of Ecological Resources criteria for MC, and MEC was not observed. Based on the results of

previous investigations and removal actions, all human and ecological exposure pathways at FIB, MRS SR002 associated with MCs and MEC are incomplete, and NFA is required.

2.8 STATUTORY DETERMINATIONS

The ANG, with concurrence from NYSDEC and NYSDOH, concluded that as a result of previous removal actions, NFA is necessary to protect public health or the environment from the surface water, stormwater/surface runoff, sediment, surface and subsurface soil, groundwater, soil gas, and indoor air associated with Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002. Because there are no hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or MEC remaining at the site at concentrations exceeding levels that allow for UU/UE, 5-year reviews are not required. The public participation requirements of Section 117(a) of CERCLA and the NCP at 40 CFR § 300.430(f)(3) have been met.

If additional contamination or MEC hazards posing an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment is discovered after execution of this ROD, the ANG will undertake all necessary actions to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment.

2.9 DOCUMENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN THE PROPOSED PLAN

There are no changes in this ROD to the NFA determination for Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 presented in the Proposed Plan (EA 2020b).

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3. RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

The final component of the ROD is the Responsiveness Summary. The purpose of the Responsiveness Summary is to provide a summary of the public's comments, concerns, and questions about the proposed remedial decision at Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 and the ANG's responses to those concerns.

The ANG selected NFA as the remedy for Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002, with concurrence from NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

A 30-day public comment period was held from 23 October to 22 November 2020 along with the option for a public meeting if requested. A public meeting was not requested, and no comments were received during the 30-day public comment period.

3.1 TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

No technical or legal issues have been identified for Hancock Field FIB, MRS SR002 with respect to this ROD.

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4. REFERENCES

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Appendix A

NYSDEC Concurrence Letter for the ROD

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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Bureau A

625 Broadway, 12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-7015

P: (518) 402-9625 | F: (518) 402-9627

www.dec.ny.gov

January 4, 2021

Via Email Only

Nicole Wireman, REM
Restoration Program Manager
ANG Readiness Center, NGB/A4VR
3501 Fetchet Avenue
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-5157

Re: Draft Record of Decision
Munitions Response Site SR002
Military Munitions Response Program
Air National Guard Hancock Field
Site No.: 734054

Dear Ms. Wireman:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) and the New York State Department of Health have reviewed the draft Record of Decision for Hancock Field Air National Guard Base Firing-In-Buttress Munitions Response Site SR002, dated December 2020.

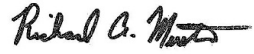
The Department was involved during the Non-Time Critical Removal Actions to remove munitions constituents from the former firing range. The munitions constituents successfully removed included munition debris and soil contaminated with metals.

Soil and groundwater sampling conducted indicate that remaining soil contamination meets unrestricted use soil cleanup objectives and groundwater was not impacted by firing range activities. No land use restrictions or institutional controls are necessary for SR002.

As site restoration has been completed, the Department concurs with the No Further Action remedy detailed in the draft Record of Decision.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Brian Jankauskas at brian.jankauskas@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Mustico".

Richard A. Mustico, P.E.
Bureau Director
Remedial Bureau A

ec: M. Ryan
G. Heitzman
J. Swartwout
B. Jankauskas
C. Vooris
S. McLaughlin
M. Schuck
A. Ghosh

Appendix B

Public Notice for SR002 Proposed Plan

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